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IOA Announces Cash Awards for Indian Medallists at the Asian Youth Games

- Cash awards announced for Indian Medallists at Asian Youth Games.
- Cash awards for Indian medallists at the 3rd Asian Youth Games in Bahrain have been announced by the Indian Olympic Association (IOA).
- A total of 48 medals were secured by the athletes, including 13 gold, 18 silver, and 17 bronze, surpassing its previous tallies from 2009 and 2013.
- Gold medallists will be awarded ₹5,00,000, silver medallists ₹3,00,000, and bronze medallists ₹2,00,000 each.
- Athletes who finished fourth will receive ₹50,000 each as recognition of their effort.
- Coaches of medal-winning athletes will be honoured with ₹1,00,000 each.
- Both boys' and girls' kabaddi teams will receive ₹10,00,000 each for their strong performances.
- The IOA highlighted that the achievement reflects the expanding depth and discipline of India's youth sports ecosystem.
- IOA President P.T. Usha stated that the athletes' success showcases the promising future of Indian sports and assured continued support for nurturing young talent.



Over ₹444 Crore Released to Odisha Under 15th Finance Commission Grants

- Over Rs 444 crore released to Odisha under 15th Finance Commission grants.
- The Fifteenth Finance Commission (XV FC) Grants for Rural Local Bodies in Odisha during the Financial Year 2025–26 has been released by the Union Government.
- The grant includes the second installment of untied grant amount of Rs 342.5964 crore for 20 eligible district panchayats (Zila Parishads), 296 eligible block panchayats (Panchayat Samitis) and 6,734 eligible gram panchayats of the state.
- Additionally, ₹101.7815 crores of withheld funds from the first installment have also been released for the financial year 2025-26.
- The grant distribution covers 20 Zilla Parishads, 296 Panchayat Samitis, and 6,734 Gram Panchayats in the state.
- The funds may be utilized by rural local bodies/Panchayati Raj Institutions for location-specific felt needs under twenty-nine (29) subjects contained in the Eleventh Schedule of the Constitution
- Untied Grants cannot be spent on salaries or establishment costs.
- Tied grants are utilized for sanitation, waste management, maintenance of ODF status, drinking water supply, rainwater harvesting and water recycling.
- The Ministries of Panchayati Raj and Jal Shakti recommend these funds to states.
- The Ministry of Finance releases the grants in two installments every financial year.



Sanjay Garg Assumes Charge as Director General of Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)

- Sanjay Garg assumed charge as Director General of Bureau of Indian Standards.
- Charge as the Director General of the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has been assumed by Sanjay Garg, IAS (1994 batch).
- The appointment came into effect from November 1.
- BIS acts as the National Standards Body of India.
- He has earlier served as Additional Secretary in the Department of Agriculture Research and Education (DARE).
- He also functioned as Secretary of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).
- He led digital transformation efforts in agricultural research administration and services.
- The Kisan Sarathi Portal was expanded during his leadership to connect farmers with agricultural experts.
- As DG BIS, he will also serve as the President of India's national committee in the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC).



Samia Suluhu Hassan Sworn in for Second Term as President of Tanzania

- Samia Suluhu Hassan sworn in for a second term as President of Tanzania.
- On 3rd November, the ceremony was conducted under tight security in the capital, Dodoma.
- She was declared the winner with 98% of the vote.
- Several opposition leaders were detained or prevented from participating in the election.
- Violent protests were reported, with the opposition rejecting the election results.
- International observers have raised questions about the transparency of the electoral process.
- Reports indicated that many civilians were killed or injured during the unrest.
- The UN Human Rights Office confirmed credible reports of at least 10 deaths across three cities.



Eight cheetahs from Botswana will reach India next month

- They will be brought under Project Cheetah. Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav made this announcement.
- Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav said cheetahs from Botswana will be kept under quarantine at Kuno National Park, MP.
- Environment Minister also talked about the upcoming COP 30 meeting in Belem, Brazil.
- The upcoming COP 30 meeting will mark ten years since the Paris Agreement.
- The minister said developing countries are still affected by funding gaps continue to affect .
- Project Cheetah was launched in September 2022. The initiative aims to reintroduce the cheetah in India.
- COP 29 was held in Baku, Azerbaijan from November 11–22, 2024.



Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya represents India at the Second World Summit for Social Development

- Indian delegation to the Second World Summit for Social Development is being led by Labour and Employment Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya
- Second World Summit for Social Development is being held in Doha, Qatar.
- The summit is taking place from 4 November until the 6th November.
- At the summit, Dr. Mandaviya will talk about India's commitment to growth.
- India's Vision of Inclusive and Equitable Growth at the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Ministerial Dialogue on Global Coalition for Social Justice will also be represented by Dr Mandaviya.
- Dr. Mandaviya will also join a High-Level Round Table on strengthening the three pillars of Social Development.
- The minister will also hold several bilateral meetings with leaders from Qatar, Romania, and Mauritius.
- The NCS session is being co-hosted by the Ministry of Labour & Employment and the Indian Business and Professionals Council.



Hockey India's Centenary Celebrations to Begin on November 7 – A Grand Tribute to 100 Years of Indian Hockey

- Hockey India's centenary celebration will begin on November 7 at the Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium in New Delhi.
- This marks 100-year of Indian hockey. It will be held in association with the Sports Authority of India.
- The event marks 100 years since Indian Hockey Federation was formed.
- Indian Hockey Federation was formed on November 7, 1925 and was the governing body for field hockey from 1925 to 2008. Hockey India replaced it in 2009
- Union Sports and Youth Affairs Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya said that more than 1,400 hockey tournaments will be held across the country to celebrate 100 years of Indian hockey.
- These tournaments will be organised in over 550 districts.
- The nationwide program aims to honor hockey's legacy and inspire young athletes and strengthen India's sporting culture.
- A special 30-minute exhibition match will also be organised between the Union Minister's XI and Hockey India's Mixed XI.



China Launches 42nd Antarctic Expedition – Begins Historic Scientific Drilling in Subglacial Lakes

- 42nd Antarctic expedition has been launched by China and this marks the start of its first-ever scientific drilling in subglacial lakes.
- The aim of 42nd Antarctic expedition is to study Antarctica's geological evolution, history of ice sheets and the continent's natural resources.
- Advanced drilling technology and domestically developed hot-water and thermal-melting drills will be used by researchers.
- With the help of drills, researchers will sample ice layers more than 3,000 meters thick.
- Long-term climate and sediment samples will be collected by team from areas like Amundsen Sea and the Ross Sea.
- Five research stations are now being operated by China in Antarctica. Its fifth major base was inaugurated last year.
- 29 nations are having 70 permanent research stations on the continent.
- These include two active research stations, Maitri and Bharti, from India.



Maldives Becomes the World's First Country to Enforce a Generational Tobacco Ban

- Maldives has become world's first country to implement generational ban on tobacco.
- Maldives implemented the world's first generational tobacco ban with effect from November 1, 2025.
- Sale and use of tobacco products by any person born after January 1, 2007 has been prohibited by law.
- The restrictions under this law apply to both residents and visitors to the country.
- Vaping and e-cigarettes for all age groups have also been prohibited by this law.
- This ban has been enacted by Maldives through the Second Amendment to the Tobacco Control Act.
- As per the law, retailers must check buyers' ages. In case of violations, they will face fines of 50,000 Maldivian rufiyaa.
- The fine for users of vaping devices is 5,000 rufiyaa.
- The Ministry of Health said the law supports a tobacco-free generation.
- Tobacco, a major global health issue, causes more than 7 million deaths annually.
- These include 1.6 million from second-hand smoke exposure.
- Earlier, New Zealand had planned for a similar generational ban for people born after January 1, 2009.
- However, New Zealand repealed it before implementation in February 2024.



India Post Payments Bank & EPFO Sign MoU to Provide Doorstep Digital Life Certificate Services to Pensioners

- India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) and Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) have signed an MoU.
- The aim of MoU is to provide doorstep Digital Life Certificate (DLC) services to pensioners under the Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995.
- The MoU was exchanged during EPFO's 73rd Foundation Day.
- IPPB will use its network of over 1.65 lakh Post Offices and 3 lakh postal service providers.
- These service points are equipped with biometric and digital devices to help pensioners submit DLCs from home.
- The service removes the need for pensioners to visit bank branches or EPFO offices.
- The process uses Aadhaar-linked Face Authentication or Fingerprint biometric authentication. This generates JeevanPramaan certificates digitally.
- IPPB had launched the Doorstep Service of Digital Life Certificate in 2020.
- IPPB is fully owned by the Government of India.
- It was established under the Department of Posts and launched on September 1, 2018.



India's GST Collections Rise 4.6% to ₹1.96 Lakh Crore in October 2025

- India's GST collections rose 6% year-on-year in October 2025 to about ₹1.96 lakh crore, marking the 10th consecutive month with revenues above the ₹1.8 lakh crore mark, as per official data.
- In the April–October period of FY26, GST collections grew 9% to ₹13.89 lakh crore, compared to ₹12.74 lakh crore in the same period last fiscal (FY25).
- Net GST collections (after refunds) stood at ₹1.69 lakh crore in October 2025, 0.6% higher than October 2024, reflecting strong festive demand after the September 22 GST rate cuts.
- **GST Collection of Previous Months**
 - April 2025 – 2.36 lakh crore
 - May 2025 – 2.01 lakh crore
 - June 2025 – 1.85 lakh crore
 - July 2025 – 1.96 lakh crore
 - August 2025 – 1.86 lakh crore
 - September 2025 – 1.89 lakh crore



UPI Transactions Hit Record ₹27.28 Lakh Crore in October 2025

- **UPI transactions** hit an **all-time high in October 2025**, reaching **₹27.28 lakh crore** in value and 20.7 billion in volume, driven by strong festive season spending, as per data from the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).
- The transaction value grew 16% year-on-year (₹27.28 lakh crore vs ₹23.49 lakh crore) and 9.5% month-on-month, showing the growing trust and reach of digital payments across India.
- UPI now accounts for 85% of India's digital transactions and operates in seven countries, including the UAE, Singapore, France, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Mauritius, reflecting its expanding global footprint and robust digital infrastructure.



Dr. Deepak Mittal Assumes Charge as India's Ambassador-Designate to UAE

- **Dr Deepak Mittal**, a 1998-batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer, has **assumed charge as the Ambassador-Designate of India to the United Arab Emirates (UAE)**, bringing with him over two decades of diplomatic experience across several key international postings.
- He has previously served in Indian missions in Egypt, Israel, and Bangladesh, and also held roles as Consul General of India in Ho Chi Minh City and Ambassador to Qatar, strengthening India's diplomatic engagement in the Middle East and Southeast Asia.

